



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Y
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/076,418	02/19/2002	Maria Dalko	010830-121	9294

7590 08/08/2005

Norman H. Stepno, Esquire
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404

EXAMINER

DAVIS, RUTH A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1651

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No. 10/076,418	Applicant(s) DALKO ET AL.	
Examiner Allison M. Ford /Dawn	Art Unit 1651	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 13 July 2005 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) The period for reply expires 6 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. The Notice of Appeal was filed on 13 July 2005. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
- (a) They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
 - (c) They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) will not be entered, or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____

Claim(s) objected to: _____

Claim(s) rejected: 1,6-13 and 31-38.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

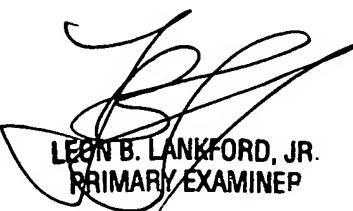
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See Continuation Sheet.
12. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
13. Other: _____

NL

Applicant's claims 1, 6-13 and 31-38 remain rejected for the reasons of record. In the reply filed 13 July 2005 applicants continue to argue that Boussouira teach that only ester precursors can be used as the ascorbic acid precursors, and only lipases can be used as the enzymes, and thus Boussouira teaches away from the currently claimed invention. Applicant argues that without the basis of Boussouira, the rejections cannot stand.

However, while it is noted that the invention of Boussouira relies on the use of ester precursors of ascorbic acid and lipases, the entire disclosure of the Boussouira patent is relied on to come to the conclusions previously drawn by the examiner- in particular that other, alternative precursors of ascorbic acid and alternative enzymes can be used together in a topical composition to provide ascorbic acid to the skin. Boussouira disclose that, in general, precursors of active agents (including ascorbic acid) can be cleaved by enzymes to release the free active agents (See col. 1, ln 50-52). For example, EP-A-487,404 use glucosyl derivatives of ascorbic acid (non-esters) that are cleaved by enzymes on the skin to produce ascorbic acid (See col. 1, ln 53-59). The inventive use of ester precursors of ascorbic acid and lipase claimed by Boussouira represents an improvement over the prior art; however, teaching a preferred embodiment that achieves superior results does not constitute a teaching away from other, less effective embodiments. See *In re Gurley*, 27 F.3d 551, 554, 31 USPQ 2d 1130, 1132 (Fed. Cir. 1994). Therefore, as previously stated, it would have been within the purview of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use other, known ascorbic acid precursors and enzymes known to convert them into vitamins, such as those taught by Berry et al and/or Wheeler et al. Furthermore, again, as stated previously, the presently claimed precursors and enzymes do not appear to impart any unexpected benefit or advantage to the resulting composition. Absent substantiative evidentiary showing to the contrary, the claims stand rejected for the reasons of record.



LEON B. LANKFORD, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINEP